

We are no more compelled by the present Act to meet in consultation with members of other schools than we were formerly, or than we are compelled to meet with members of our own school, in whose professional ability or personal integrity we have no confidence. We meet members of the other schools in the social circle, in the Church, in the Legislature, in municipal councils, and on school boards, and I have not seen that gentlemen so meeting them have suffered any indignity, or degradation, or were ever treated by the profession as if they had committed a breach of medical ethics, and I maintain that *no more* compromise of principle is required of those who meet in the Medical Council to administer and execute a law, established by the Legislature of the country, and which does not require any discussion of the peculiar principles of the different schools.

Where there is no compromise of position or sacrifice of principle required, there can hardly be much degradation suffered.

I regard the Medical Council simply as an executive body, established by the Legislature to carry out its decisions, or execute its laws, and I believe it could no more refuse to assume the responsibility thus imposed upon it than the Judge could refuse to administer a law which might be obnoxious to a large minority of the people, or even to himself.

I believe there never was a greater fallacy than to suppose the profession is more closely allied to, or associated with the irregular sects under the present name of "College of Physicians and Surgeons," than it was under the several old Acts which made them all members of the "Medical Profession."

Again, sir, I am told that the British Colleges will refuse to recognize our Canadian degrees, on account of the supposed fusion of the different medical dogmas under this Bill, but when they understand the true merits of our much traduced Act, and see its working, and its legitimate results, I am satisfied they will never do anything so absurd as to refuse the recognition of graduates from those Institutions with which they have hitherto been on terms of amity, and whose conditions or requirements for graduation have not been in the least affected or modified by the new Bill, but they very likely will refuse to recognize those who are registered as homeopathic or eclectic practitioners, just as they have heretofore refused to recognize the regular practitioner if he presented himself as a simple licentiate, or without a degree from certain specified institutions.

I have no fear of such a refusal, but believe that as they become better acquainted with the true

character of our Ontario Medical Act, they will, like Dr. Marsden of Quebec, declare it to be "a vast boon to the profession of Ontario," far in advance of the state of things in Britain, and well worthy of their own imitation.

Now, sir, I think I have shown that the Medical Bill was required, in order that the entrance of incompetent persons into the profession, with very unequal qualifications, might be prevented, that it is eminently calculated to elevate the standing of the profession throughout Ontario, by the power which it gives of not only *recommending*, but *enforcing* one uniform and high standard of examination for all licentiates, that it will in a few years accomplish for the profession far more than its most sanguine promoters ever dared to hope, and that for the future the admission of improperly prepared persons into the medical profession will cease to be a standing reproach to the medical schools of Ontario at least, and therefore let me express the hope that every reader of your valuable journal will do his best to secure for the Bill a fair and sufficient trial. Let us remember that factious opposition and abuse of an opponent, always convert the assailed into a martyr, strengthens his position in the hearts of the people, and gives the impression that a course so defended or espoused must be essentially weak.

Controversy never convinced, and the faggot never converted any one, and I am satisfied that abuse of the Medical Bill, or irregular medical sects, will never convince anybody, either in the profession or out of it, that the one is degrading or the other supported by ignorance.

Let us therefore unite in our endeavor to secure an enlightened and well qualified profession; assured that in proportion as we enforce a high standard of qualification from all licentiates, fewer persons will seek the profession simply as a means of livelihood, and still fewer will afterwards leave it for the low and degrading practices of quackery.

With many thanks for your valuable space,

I remain, yours truly,

OBSERVER.

Reviews and Notices of Books.

DISEASES AND INJURIES OF THE EYE, THEIR MEDICAL AND SURGICAL TREATMENT. By GEORGE LAWSON, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields, and Assistant Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston. Toronto: Copp, Clarke & Co.

This is the work which the practitioner needs whose time for reading more extended treatises is